

Psychiatry Grand Rounds WCM Department of Psychiatry Psychology CE Announcement



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**
Psychiatry

HOW PSYCHIATRISTS AND PSYCHOANALYSTS WORK WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

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11 AM - 12 PM



Live Online

ABSTRACT

The United Nations is a critical stakeholder in supporting mental health policies and programs worldwide. Three sectors that work together – UN agencies, member states, and NGOs – compose the UN system that monitors and enhances the status of human rights, well-being, and security. The American Psychiatric Association and the International Psychoanalytical Association are two NGOs that have consultative status with the UN. Both psychiatrists and psychoanalysts have contributed to the UN by conveying a core understanding of mental processes, acknowledging the act of witnessing and advocating for basic rights, especially those of children.

SPEAKER

Vivian B. Pender, M.D. is Clinical Professor of Psychiatry Emerita at the Weill Cornell Medical College and was a Training and Supervising Psychoanalyst at Columbia University. She was the 148th president of the American Psychiatric Association (2021-22). At the United Nations Dr. Pender has represented the International Psychoanalytical Association and the American Psychiatric Association, both associations with Special Consultative Status. She chaired the NGO Committee on the Status of Women and the NGO Committee on Mental Health, coalitions of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the UN. As a UN Consultant psychiatrist, she was instrumental in the establishment of UN Women. Dr. Pender was a volunteer Asylum Evaluator with the Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights, a medical student run network organization of Physicians for Human Rights. She has published journal articles and book chapters on pregnancy, affect, child abuse, sex trafficking, social determinants of mental health and leadership. In 2016, *The Status of Women: Violence, Identity and Activism* and in 2023, *Trauma, Flight and Migration* were published. In 2015, Dr. Pender founded Healthcare Against Trafficking, Inc. a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting education and advocacy in the healthcare sector. Dr. Pender has honors and awards for excellence in teaching medical students, undergraduate and graduate students, residents, fellows and psychoanalytic candidates for forty years.

Alexander Kalogerakis, M.D., is a Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medicine. He is Vice-Chair of the American Board of Psychoanalysis. At the New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, he is a Child and Adolescent Supervising Analyst. He is a member of the United Nations subcommittee of the International Psychoanalytical Association.

Sargam Mona Jain, MD is a board-certified psychiatrist and psychoanalyst and Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College, where she has served on faculty for over a decade and directs the Community Outreach, Research and Education program. She completed her psychiatry residency at Payne Whitney, a fellowship in public psychiatry at NYSPI-Columbia, and psychoanalytic training at Columbia University. Her work bridges psychoanalysis, philosophy, and global mental health, with a focus on structural determinants of mental health. Dr. Jain is a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, maintains a private practice in New York and Massachusetts, and is the founder of Satya Psychedelics.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the structure and function of the UN system.
2. Identify the steps that NGOs take to educate and advocate for mental health.
3. Plan an individual strategy to be involved with the UN.

REFERENCES

1. Cuijpers, P., Javed, A., & Bhui, K. (2023). The WHO World Mental Health Report: a call for action. *The British Journal of Psychiatry*, 222(6), 227–229. <https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.2023.9>
2. Pender, V. B. (2022). Psychiatry in crisis: great expectations, elusive cures. *The Lancet*, 399(10343), 2258–2259. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(22\)01066-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(22)01066-2)
3. Smith, A., Smith, D. T. G., Ogunwale, A., Bhugra, D., Buadze, A., Ventriglio, A., & Liebrez, M. (2023). Geopsychiatry, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and geopolitical challenges for global mental health. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, 70(4), 631–635. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00207640231219169>

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